

August 16 Meeting Program - W6RGG

General Meeting

August 16, 2013

7:30pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

23 Carol Lane Lafayette

License Testing at 6:00pm

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**Affiliated
Club**



This month's guest speaker is Bob Vallio, W6RGG. Bob was the elected Section Communications Manager and Section Manager of the ARRL East Bay Section from 1978 to 2000, and Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division from 2000 to 2003. When his friend of over 40 years, Director Jim Maxwell, W6CUF, **unexpectedly passed away in 2003, Bob took over as Director and has served continuously in that position since then.** Bob has served on every standing committee of the ARRL Board of Directors, most recently being elected by his fellow Directors to the Executive Committee.



During all of those years of service to the ARRL, Bob has also been involved in Emergency Communications with Alameda County RACES (now known as the Alameda County Sheriff's Communications Team) since 1975. He has served for many years as Chief Radio Officer and currently holds the position of Chief Radio Officer, Emeritus.

W6RGG at PACIFICON 2011.
(N4DLA photo)

First licensed in July 1952 as Novice, WN6RGG, he upgraded to General Class as W6RGG in 1953. Bob has held an Extra Class license since its inception in 1968, and is an accomplished DXer and contester. His

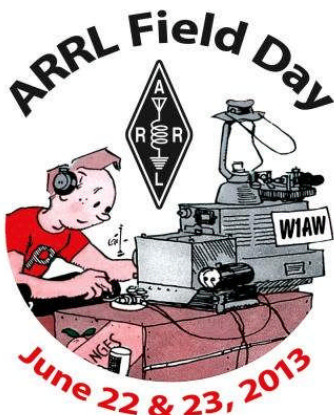
DX and contest operations include FO0XX (Clipperton Island--twice!), XF4L (Revillagigedo), 6Y5BF (Jamaica), 5W1AZ (Western Samoa), KP2A (Virgin Islands), 4U0ITU (ITU HQ in Geneva), VP5VW (Turks & Caicos Islands), 5V7A (Togo) three times, HC8N (Galapagos Islands) four times, OJ0/W6RGG (Market Reef), OH0/W6RGG (Aland Islands), and BS7H (Scarborough Reef), in 1997 and 2007. He has also served in various capacities on the Yasme Foundation Board of Directors, was a member of the very first ARRL DX Advisory Committee, and is a long-time member and past president of the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club. Bob first made Top of the DXCC Honor Roll in 1982 and still holds that ranking. He has twice been named NCDXC DXer of the Year, and was elected to the CQ DX Hall of Fame in May of 1997.



KK6CQX presents W6VSY with a certification of appreciation thanking Bill for his presentation on the Marine Radio Historical Society during the July 2013 club meeting.



(WA6CIE photo)



**More
W6CX
Field Day
action on
page 7**

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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PACIFICON 2013

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Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE and
Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan, AF6HQ
Refreshments: Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
Holiday Dinner: Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Annual Picnic - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE

***The Carrier* Newsletter**

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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN **FULL COLOR** AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:



PRESIDENT'S QTC

Lots of activity has been swirling around our club since last month: some good, some bad - all interesting. Starting off, my time has been filled with all things PACIFICON. Actually, many hams in the area are having their time consumed with trying to make PACIFICON maintain its status as the premier ham radio event on the West Coast. PACIFICON, which is being held on October 11-13, 2013 at the Marriott Santa Clara, is just an incredible event that is filled with any number of interesting forums and events, along with a great swap meet, banquet, one day class, law forum, antenna forum, and the all famous Gordo West Keynote Kickoff Coffee!

We are now approximately 60 days out from go time, and the calls and email are pretty much non-stop at this point. That is really exciting, and there is so much enthusiasm for the event. I hope you will join me for this fantastic event, and also consider

volunteering to help out in either a small way or a profound way. There are lots of interesting duties that need to be performed at the event.

Our webmaster, David Witkowski W6DTW, has been working tirelessly with a firm by the name of PointView, to bring us an all new web design. We have had some growing pains, but are now really figuring out the various systems that make up the web page and help various committees do their jobs.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Chair, Will Dickson WB6YGI. Will can sign you up for an important job that will really help move PACIFICON forward. He can be contacted at: wkdictson@gmail.com.

* * *

A few weeks ago, unknown suspect(s) toppled the large communications tower that is located on top of Rocky Ridge, an important communications point that is located to the west of Danville and Alamo. There were many antennas located on that tower for many different purposes, included public safety, commercial and amateur radio. Our club had an APRS packet digipeater located on the top of the tower that was pinging away constantly for many years. It was not a direct node to the internet for APRS, but it was a very important link that helped move an incredible amount of traffic to nodes in the area. Faithfully, our little digipeater continued to ping away for a couple of days after the collapse of the tower until a site administrator could be contacted to turn off the power on our machine. Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Tech Committee chair, was able to get up to the site and remove our cabinet from the tower's vault. The next morning at 0700, an intrepid group of five hams off-roaded to the North Peak of Mount Diablo to install additional amateur television equipment for the club. While up there, Trevor worked on the transported digipeater gear, while Jim Tittle K6SOE, and Fred Coe WB6ASU worked on electrical and RF connections.

The APRS digipeater is alive again - and with its new QTH, covers an amazing circle of land. The radius of the area it covers is near 150 miles or more in some directions. This was a situation where the radio community got lemons, and our club made lemonade!

* * *

As I mentioned, we wheeled up to the top of North Peak of Mount Diablo in order to build the new amateur television (ATV) repeater. This was our mission and our primary work focus. Our club has spent a good bit of its treasury to purchase antennas, feedline, tower climber time, rent, and pieces and parts that are needed to accomplish this task.

The talents of the hams that originally built, and continue to rebuild our club's ATV system is just stunning. Their dedication, commitment and knowledge is inspiring. In the next few days, we hope to have the repeater up and on the air. Please stay tuned!

* * *

We are looking for club members that would like to help out on Nominations and Awards Committees. The Nominations Committee is chaired by Ron Luttringer K6XC, and the awards committee is chaired by Janice Fujii KG6VTD. If you would like to help and steer either of these committees, please contact me or the respective chairs directly.

* * *

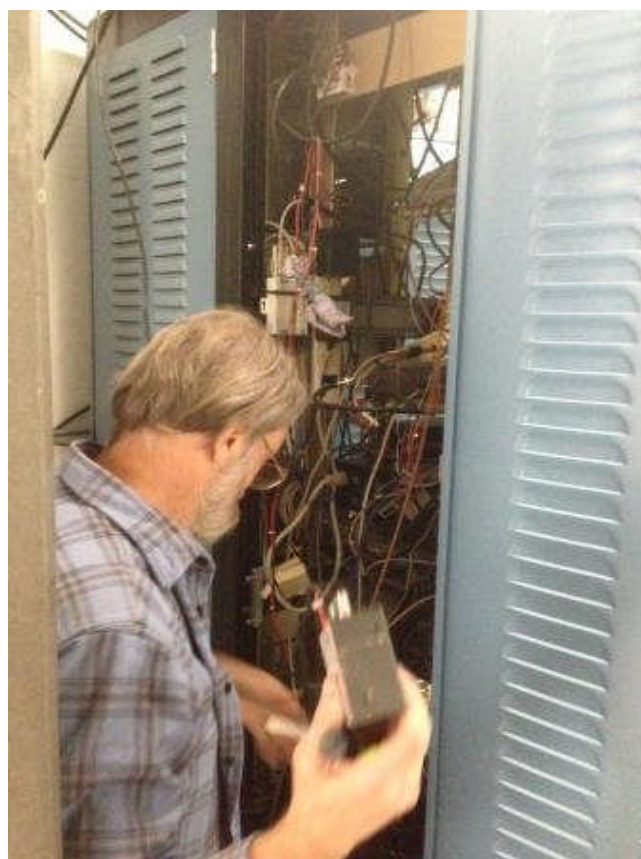
Our new Vice-President, Dave Schild KK6CQX, has been putting together some excellent speakers for the coming months and into 2014. If you do not regularly come to the MDARC monthly meetings, please consider coming. We sure have something for you to see.

* * *

If there is anything that you would like to see from our club, please do not hesitate contacting me. Please remember that our club is here for you, not the other way around. We are here to serve you and provide the kind of support, Elmering, and content that should make you proud to be a member and want to be active in all activities.

With that, I think I'll sign off for the month, but look forward to finding all of you in my logbook in the near future.

73,
Jim Siemons, AF6PU
President
Chair, PACIFICON 2013



On August 7, 2013, WB6ASU disconnects W6CX ATV repeater equipment from cabinet atop Mount Diablo's south peak in preparation for its evacuation to its new QTH on north peak.
(AF6PU photo)



Mount Diablo's North Peak is the new home to the W6CX digipeater (above with WA6JAU) and the W6CX amateur television repeater. At left, tower climber KC6KIM confers WB6ASU.

(Photos taken by AF6PU on August 5, 2013)

**NORTH
PEAK**

KE6ZIW at the Mic at W6RO

Aboard the RMS Queen Mary



WA9SVD on watch in the W6RO wireless room. (text and photos by KE6ZIW)

I wanted to share an exciting ham radio experience that I had on August 11, 2013. While visiting the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach Harbor with my family, I had the unexpected thrill, and honor, of getting to transmit from the ship's ham radio room. The radio room (also called the "Wireless Room") is located on the top deck next to the middle of the ship's 3 gigantic smoke stacks. The radio room is not always open, but luckily it was today.

Larry, WA9SVD, long time radio volunteer on the ship, was greeting visitors. Most were not hams. When I introduced myself and told him I

was a ham, he asked if I had my license with me. Luckily I always keep a copy in my wallet. So he offered to let me transmit on one of several radios in the room, using W6RO, the ship's famous call sign. I was delighted and jumped at the occasion. He set me up on an HF radio and recommended I use 17 meters, which he said was really active lately. I was real nervous at first, and suddenly seemed to forget all I knew about controlling an HF radio. But after the first response to my calls for "CQ CQ from W6RO on the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach Harbor," I totally got into it. Reception was great, and there were lots of people wanting to talk to the *Queen Mary*. Most of the strong contacts on this day came from Missouri, North Dakota and Arkansas. I soon realized they were as excited as I was. Larry encouraged me to keep going on for almost an hour. Then I handed the mic back to him, thrilled and exhausted from the experience. Remember to visit this great ship and exciting radio room if you have time on your next trip to Southern California.



(QSL card courtesy N4DLA)

W6CX

Mt Diablo Amateur Radio Club Field Day

June 22,23, 2013

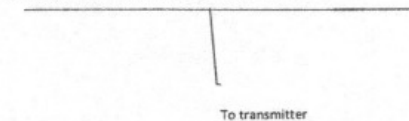
The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club invites you to participate in our annual Field Day event where you can talk to other radio operators at distant locations. Talk to one of our club members to have them explain how to go about this exciting experience.

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (**MDARC**) was founded in 1946. Today it has a membership of over 300 dedicated Hams and is one of the largest amateur radio clubs in California. **MDARC's** purpose is to encourage innovation in amateur radio, provide public service and educational opportunities, foster good will within our community, and have fun in the process.

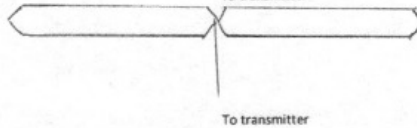
See the next page for an explanation of why we have a Field Day and the reason for having it.

SOME ANTENNA TYPES IN USE FOR FIELD DAY HERE IN HEATHER FARM PARK:

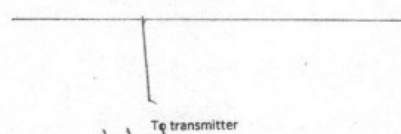
DIPOLE



CAGE DIPOLE



OFFCENTER FED DIPOLE



(WA6CIE photo)

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- 32 bit DSP

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**TM-V71A** 2M/440 Dual Band

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- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display

**ID-51A** VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM-FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible

**IC-7600** All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope

**IC-V8000** 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR

ID-880H

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Wideband receiver

**YAESU**
The radio**FTDX-3000** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP / Down Conversion 1st IF

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FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/al-pha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

**FT-450D** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

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- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

**FT-857D** Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
- 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

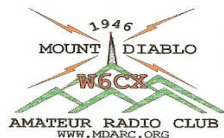
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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<https://stn3057.ip.irlp.net/status.html>

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday

<http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/>

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

August and September 2013 Club Calendar

Friday August 16, 2013	7:30pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
Saturday September 7, 2013	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
Monday September 9, 2013	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Black Bear Restaurant, 700 Bancroft Avenue, Walnut Creek</i>
Friday September 20, 2013	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>